EXCLUSIVE: Trump Shooting Suspect’s Past Reveals Turn From Christian Upbringing

Cole Tomas Allen was raised in a Christian homeschool environment, but more than a decade ago showed early signs of drifting toward left-wing grievance politics.

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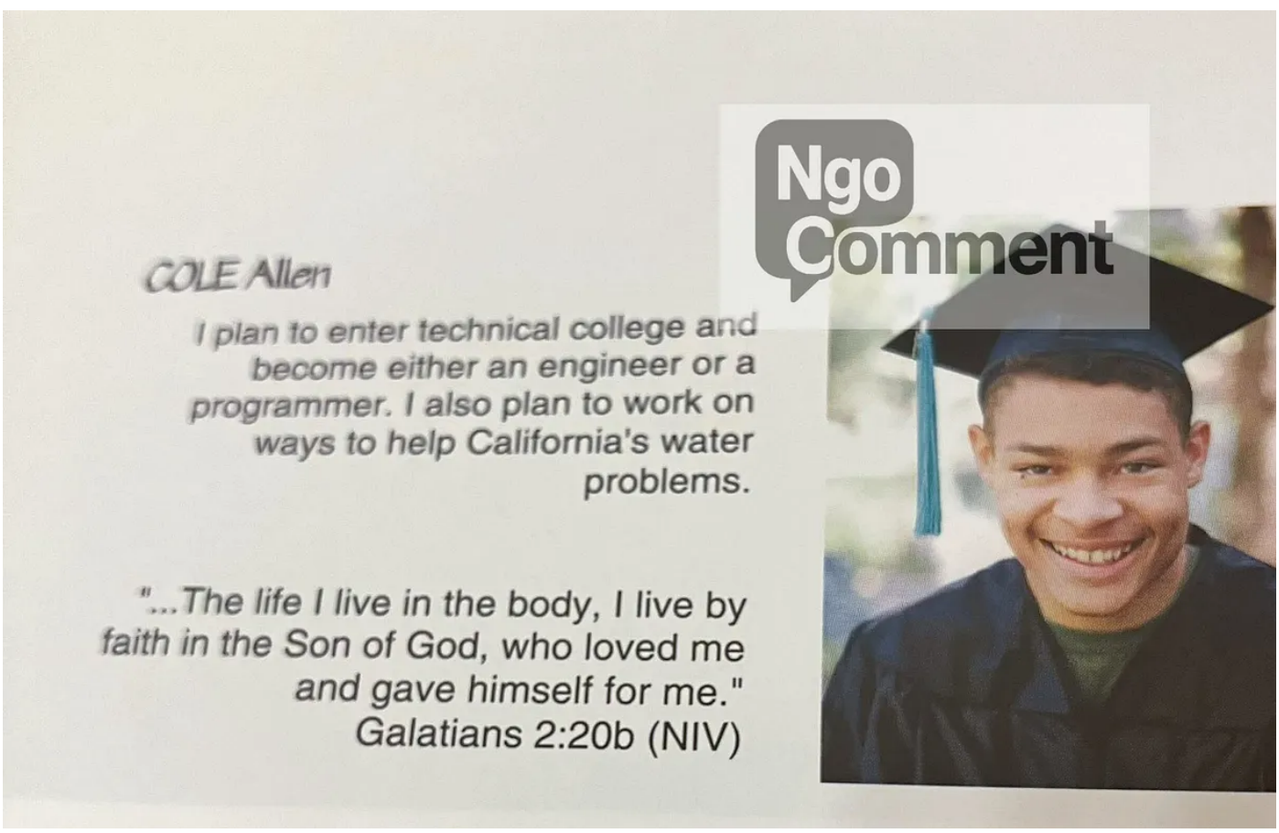
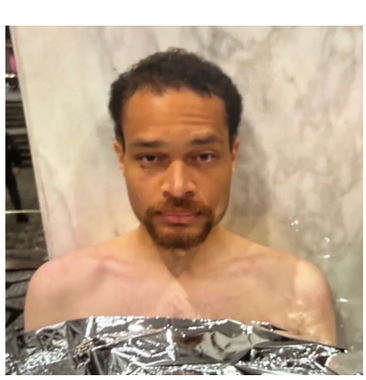

COLE Allen
I plan to enter technical college and become either an engineer or a programmer. I also plan to work on ways to help California's water problems.
"...The life I live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me."
Galatians 2:20b (NIV)
Ngo Comment

Allen Cole’s senior yearbook entry

Ngo Comment can exclusively report that the accused attempted assassin suspect i the White House Correspondents’ Dinner shooting was raised in a homeschooling environment tied to an evangelical Christian community in southern California.

Cole Tomas Allen, 31, of Torrance, Calif., is accused of attempting to assassinate President Donald Trump at the Washington Hilton Hotel on April 25. A Secret Serv officer was shot but was not injured due to his bulletproof vest.



Cole Allen after his arrest

In the days since the shooting, Allen's manifesto has circulated publicly, outlining radical left-wing, anti-Trump views and an expressed desire to target the president members of his administration.

Allen's extensive social media history on X and Bluesky is also under scrutiny, show a sharp shift over the past two years toward increasingly extreme leftist, anti-Trum rhetoric.

But Allen was not always politically radical.

He was once a high-achieving student and athlete raised in a structured homeschooling environment connected to a conservative Christian network.

Allen was a student in the South Bay Faith Academy in Redondo Beach, Calif., a Christian homeschool co-op that connects families for education, athletics and soc activities. The program offers parent-led classes, youth sports and organized events homeschooled students connected to local churches.

Cole Allen played volleyball through a local Christian school

Even within that community, however, his family stood out.

"Something that stood out to me was his family, especially his sister, was very liber said a former peer who was part of the same homeschooling co-op.

The source, who requested anonymity, said Allen's sister argued with other student about her hatred of Trump back in 2016.

"He was nice and smart, but this [the shooting] didn't happen in a vacuum," the for peer said. "His sister and Cole believed all people of color were victims even thoug and his siblings went to great schools." Allen attended the prestigious California Institute of Technology after graduating.

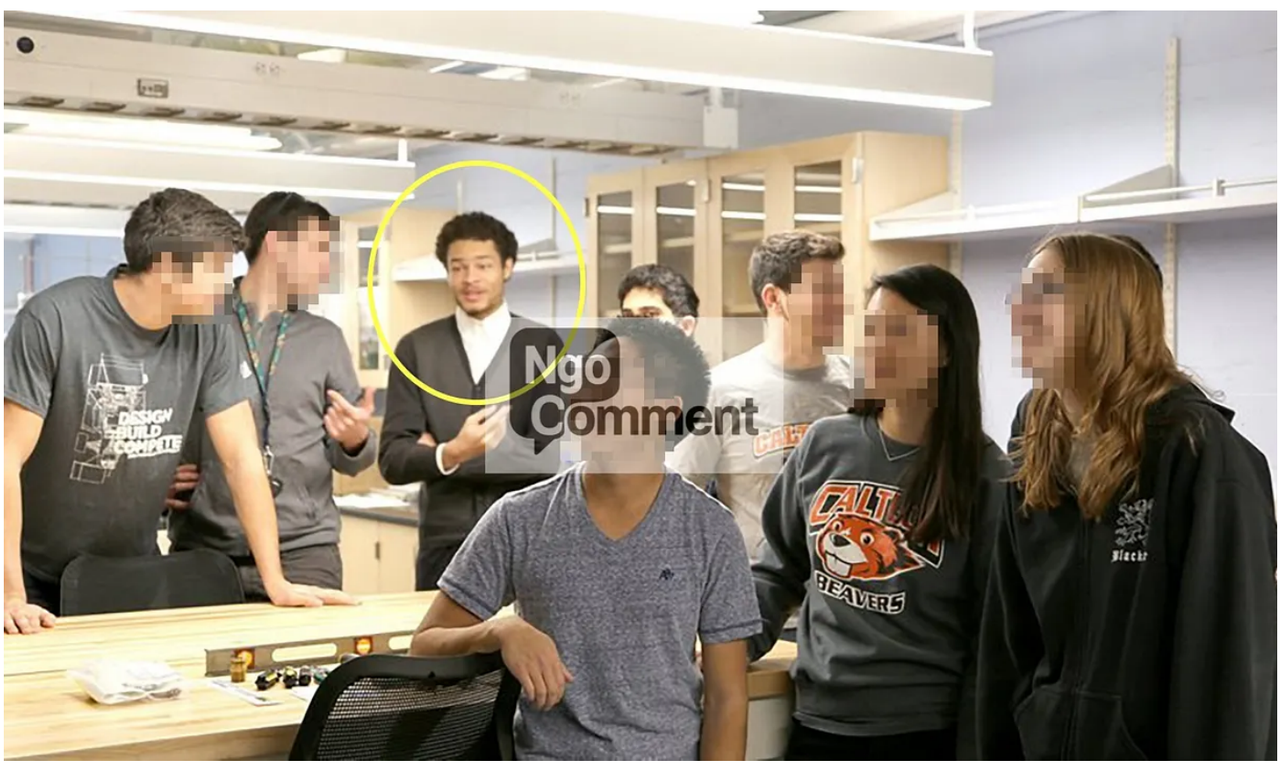
Cole Allen is remembered as being extremely bright and high-performing

Allen's family has been associated with Grace United Reformed Church in Torranc

Photos from his youth show Allen participating in volleyball through Pacific Luthe High School, which provided athletics for students in the co-op academy.

Cole Allen's volleyball team won an award

Allen graduated from the homeschool program in 2013 before attending CalTech, where he earned a degree in mechanical engineering in 2017. He later obtained a master's degree in computer science from California State University, Dominguez Hills last year.



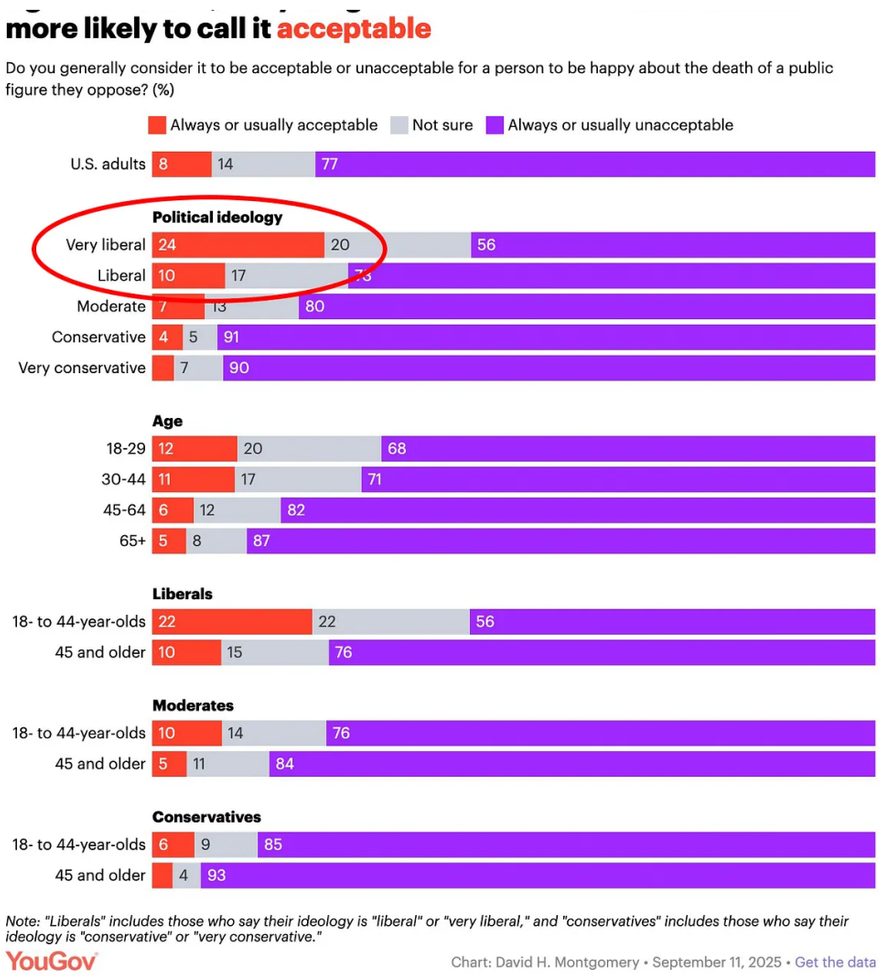
Cole Allen at CalTech in 2016

It remains unclear what led to his radicalization, but his expressed views in the manifesto and online social media posts are not divergent from inflammatory and sometimes extreme rhetoric espoused by Democrat politicians, writers, and activist

Some recent research has shown that highly educated people who identify as libera left-wing are increasingly more supportive of the use of political violence.

Polling by YouGov published in September 2025 showed that very liberal American are about 6 times more likely than right-wing identified respondents to support political violence.

Most Americans say it's unacceptable to be happy about public figures' deaths, but younger and more liberal Americans are


more likely to call it acceptable
Do you generally consider it to be acceptable or unacceptable for a person to be happy about the death of a public figure they oppose? (%)
Always or usually acceptable
Not sure
Always or usually unacceptable
U.S. adults 8 14 77
Political ideology
Very liberal 24 20 56
Liberal 10 17 73
Moderate 7 13 80
Conservative 4 5 91
Very conservative 7 90
Age
18-29 12 20 68
30-44 11 17 71
45-64 6 12 82
65+ 5 8 87
Liberals
18- to 44-year-olds 22 22 56
45 and older 10 15 76
Moderates
18- to 44-year-olds 10 14 76
45 and older 5 11 84
Conservatives
18- to 44-year-olds 6 9 85
45 and older 4 93
Note: "Liberals" includes those who say their ideology is "liberal" or "very liberal," and "conservatives" includes those who say their ideology is "conservative" or "very conservative."
YouGov
Chart: David H. Montgomery • September 11, 2025 • Get the data

On X, where he used the handle "@CForce3000," Allen began in 2024 to frequently share posts from Democrat-linked accounts comparing Trump to Hitler. He often shared content from Democrat media influencer account Meidas Touch and The Lincoln Project. He also donated to Vice President Kamala Harris' presidential campaign and shared claims that the 2024 shooting of Trump in Butler, Pa., was staged. This view was widely expressed online by left-wing accounts even though a Trump supporter was killed and two seriously injured.

In 2025, Allen moved to Bluesky, a platform popular among left-wing users who boycott X, where he continued posting anti-Trump content under the username "@coldforce.bsky.social." He encouraged leftists to arm themselves, echoing rhetori that has gained traction in some political circles.

"Best time to buy a gun was days ago," Allen posted in December 2025, adding, "second best time is today."

www.cnn.com/2025/09/04/p...
Trump DOJ is looking at ways to ban transgender Americans from owning guns, sources say
By Evan Perez, Hannah Rabinowitz, CNN
Published 12:27 PM CDT, Thu Sep 4, 2025
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
WASHINGTON

Cole Allen on Bluesky

South Bay Faith Academy issued a statement distancing itself from Allen.

"We can confirm that the individual in question was a former student at our institution," the statement reads in part. "However, this individual has had no recer association, affiliation or communication with the school. The actions of former students as private citizens do not reflect the values or mission of our Christian Educational Community."

In Allen's high school yearbook, he chose Galatians 2:20 as his senior quote: "...The I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave him for me."

He has been charged with one count of attempt to assassinate the President of the United States, transportation of a firearm and ammunition in interstate commerce with intent to commit a felony, and discharge of a firearm during a crime of violenc